

These religious guilds were possessed
of considerable wealth, given & left to them by
rich benefactors: their prosperity proved their
ruin: Henry VIII suppressed the religious guilds,
their property & revenues being seized & created
in one blow; & thus not-became ^{any} ^{all} of
the guilds are accused of misdemeanors, but
because, as is stated with delightful naïveté,
"the King needs their chattels to carry on his
French wars?" ~~But~~ Bishop Jot. the then Bishop
of Winchester, undertook the cause of this Guild
of the Holy Ghost, & sought to save it by begging
the King to take it under his gracious protection
for the promotion of sound learning & religious
instructions: the cause succeeded: the destroyers
accepted the role of protectors, & alone of the
guilds, that of the Holy Ghost was not
suppressed.

The view of Basingstoke, executed in 1669 by
the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Cosmo III., has a
special interest inasmuch as it gives
a fair representation of the Holy Ghost Chapel
as it then was, with the aid of the existing remains
of the traces of foundations to add a descriptive
account of the ruins: - says Canon Phillard
the accomplished archaeologist who with
unfailing perseverance, has pieced out the history
of these antiquities. "In his interesting history of Basingstoke."
The original building consisted of a chancel &
nave, with a square tower at the west end. In each
of the side walls of the chancel were two narrow lancet
windows, indicative of its erection in the time of
King John. This was the Chapel of the Holy Ghost
the one building served for both Chapel & school room,
as a school room, it was actually in use until
1855, when new school buildings on the Salisbury
Road were opened. Rev. Gilbert White went
to school, & confessed to having helped to pull
down a "vast & elegant" of the neighbouring ruins.

The immensely thick walls built of undressed
flints which are still standing - portions of the tower.
Point to a very early date; there is a 13th Century
window in the deep chancel. The doorway & another
window which remains can hardly be earlier than
the 13th century, but - "there is little doubt - that
there was inserted long after the building of the
walls." What remains of ~~the~~ ^{my covered} building - three
walls of the tower - is a heavy fragment - interesting
for its great antiquity - but - having little beauty
beyond. The really beautiful ruins here is
that of the Chapel of much celebrity - in its time, the
resort of pilgrims, visited, and how seen, by
at least one distinguished foreigner. It was
built by Sir William, afterwards Lord William
Sandys, with the concurrence of Bishop Fox, &
his first petition to King Henry VIII. is extant
asking for license to found a free Chapel.
The new ~~chapel~~ ^{building} was partly incorporated with
the old: it was designed by Lord Sandys as
a burying place for his family, & was dedicated
to the Holy Trinity, though now the ruins
of both buildings are known as the Chapel or
Chapels of the Holy Ghost. This latter building
was never used as a school room.

~~The founder's great grandson~~ William Lord
Sandys, the third baron, ~~of the house~~ by his
will dated 11th October 1621, directs that his
body should be buried "in the chapel obtained
erected & dedicated to the honour of the Holy
Trinity, by William, late Lord Sandys, my great
grandfather deceased, late Lord Chamberlain
to the late King of famous memory King Henry
the eighth, adjoining to the chapel called the Holy
Ghost Chapel, near to the town of Avington in the
County of Southampton, & my said great grandfather
appointed for the burial place of him & his posterity."

Of this Chapel an exceedingly pleasant remnant remains, showing the South windows on the east end; a second aisle appears to have been lost. The style is a curious mixture of classical & late Perpendicular, with classical details, but the whole effect is most pleasing. The ruin as it stands, heavily draped with ivy, is a ~~very~~ ^{pleasing} beautiful object. It was the interior, however, that was most admired by contemporary writers; Camden speaks with praise of the pictures on the w. & the beautiful stained glass windows ^{the} as instances among the finest in the country.

This was the Chapel built by Lord Sands in conjunction with Bishop Fox. "In a grant of Henry VIII's time, the 'Guild of the Holy Ghost' is described as 'founded by the late Bishop of Winton (i.e. Richard Fox) & the Lord Sands, by the licence of the King's Majesty. But now is, under the Great Seal of England to have one Alderman, two Wardens, certain brethren & one priest.' This deed, however, relates to the Second foundation of the Guild."

Edward VI. dissolved the Guild of the Holy Ghost, its school was suppressed, the chapel decayed. Later, on the accession of Mary, the inhabitants of Hampton, ^{successfully} moved the Crown to restore the ancient Guild & employing the good offices of the accomplished Cardinal Rob. ~~Adams~~ ^{in family reasons, had the interests of Henry VIII's heirs} ~~connected with a family of the name of Hampton~~ ^{Adams} ~~was interested in the matter~~ Queen Elizabeth converted the institution into a Grammar School which still flourishes on endowments derived from the estates of the Monks of the ^{number of scholars is - present - about eighty; with a staff of teachers}.

The steps by which the history of these antiquaries
has been completed are full of interest - as exciting
as a romance. For instance, there were two
Sandys tombs, one to the ~~memory~~ ^{for} of Lord Sandys
~~the founder~~ ^{the founder} & son, to the memory of his father, Sir
William Sandys, & Margaret - his wife. The latter
tomb was preserved, being built upon the thickness
of the walling, while that of Lord Sandys ^{which stood in the center of the chapel} was ~~human~~
wholly altogether disappeared. Nevertheless, he
was or still to be seen ^{with the Sandys} ~~and~~ ^{by} bearings, ~~the~~
Sandys arms. Here was a puzzle which demanded
solution. Somehow it transpired that Mr.
James Meale, an ^{English} ~~eminent~~ ^{noted} archaeological
had the specifications for these tombs written
in French, in his possession. But he was
far abroad; no one knew exactly where ^{by and by}. At
last he was heard of - Dr. Bridges, & kindly produced
the document, the original contract between
Lord William Sandys & Arnold Hermann, a
native of Amsterdam. The tombs of the
Chapel were of black ^{an almost black} ~~stone~~ ^{slab} certainly - the 'Antwerp
Stone' of the ~~same~~ contract; but then, they were
not of the length of the tomb of the contract, &
neither of them agreed with the description of
the slab. At last it was suggested that the
two tombs were, in fact, the two sides of the
original tomb, mounted on bricks & preserved
thus, the slab being missing. With this new
light, everything was plain; measurements,
the coats of arms, all agreed with the specifications.
Again, a curious drawing, a transfer
from an etching, was found in the possession
of an old inhabitant proving a bird's eye view
of the church to be as it appeared in 1644; & then

showing the elevation of the Holy Ghost Chapel with both
apices. Truly, what was the original plan's transfer?

^{out.}
An ~~excellent~~ train of circumstances brought to light
a manuscript of the same subject, with an inscription:
"Copied from the records of Basingstoke in 1591."

A search amongst the London book-shops by the
producer of these Travels, which gave rise to the
quest. The series describes the interior of the
Chapel as very rich - the windows of old glass,
stained glass. Was this glass entirely lost?
With a sort of felicity, a veracious witness presently
that some old glass, belonging to Basingstoke
Church, it was supposed, was in the possession
of Lady Mill, of Mottisfont, near Romsey, a
descendant of the Sandys family. On journey
to Romsey was rewarded by the discovery of
some, rudely packed crates in a loft
which was full of stained glass, which
was found to be the Sandys arms, &c., &c.,
by various marks, identified with the glass
which had been carried for safety out of the
windows of the Holy Ghost Chapel during
the Civil War. It was personally bestowed
on the fortunate guide, ^{the Master of Basingstoke,} by him, carried to
London to be put together. It now appears in
the interesting window in the North aisle of Basingstoke

Church. Some other interesting relics of the
Holy Ghost Chapel are still preserved at
Mottisfont - a purple velvet-altar frontal,
book covers, pulpit hangings, - all with the
Sandys bearings, & their motto, "Aide Dieu."

III

Of the pleasant walks round Basingstoke
which we have not space to describe we say little.